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Letter dated 1 May 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement issued on 1 May 2017 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, with regard to the situation on the Korean Peninsula (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

17-07049 (E) 050517

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Annex to the letter dated 1 May 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 1 May 2017 with regard to the situation on the Korean Peninsula

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) said in a statement on Monday that the touch-and-go situation, created on the Korean Peninsula as a result of the United States (US) DPRK-targeted joint military exercises for aggression and the military threat, has left a serious lesson.

The confrontation between the DPRK and the US has lasted for more than half a century, but the US aggressive hysteria has never reached such a height and the situation on the Korean Peninsula has never inched this close to the brink of nuclear war as in the period of the recent drills.

The situation on the Korean Peninsula proves once again that the US is the chieftain of aggression and war and harasser of peace who is escalating tension and that the DPRK was just and far-sighted when it opted for bolstering its powerful nuclear deterrence for self-defence under the uplifted banner of the simultaneous development of the two fronts.

If the DPRK had not had access to the powerful nuclear force and had not gotten itself ready to counter the US and its vassal forces' provocation with merciless military counteraction, the US would have committed, without hesitation, the same brigandish aggression act in Korea that it has committed against other countries.

In order to check such high-handed and arbitrary practices and defend the sovereignty and the right to existence of the country and the nation, and to contribute to regional peace and security and genuine international justice, the DPRK has been bolstering its nuclear deterrence despite manifold difficulties.

The recent confrontation with the US reminds us once again of the iron truth that one has to build one's own strength in order to defend oneself from the whirlwind of history, in which one is neither aided nor sympathized by anyone.

Now that the US is kicking up the overall racket for sanctions and pressure against the DPRK, pursuant to its new policy called "maximum pressure and engagement", the DPRK will speed up at the maximum pace the measures for bolstering its nuclear deterrence.

The DPRK is fully ready to respond to any option taken by the US, and unless it withdraws its hideous hostile policy towards the DPRK and nuclear threat and blackmail, the DPRK will continue to bolster its military capabilities for self-defence and pre-emptive nuclear attack with the nuclear force as a pivot.

The DPRK's measures for bolstering the nuclear force to the maximum will be taken in a consecutive and successive way, at any moment and any place decided by its supreme leadership.